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VALLEY STAR

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LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

Valley's Disaster Plan Needs Work

By BILLIE JORDAN
STAFF WRITER

A group of about 35 Valley College administrators, faculty and staff met recently to review the disaster preparedness team's strategy, discuss concerns and begin to organize a disaster plan.

"We need to get the people on top to understand what their roles and responsibilities will be to implement the plan," said Lou Albert, director of staff and operational planning.

Many of the prospective team members left during intermission and didn't return. They missed key elements of the meeting, including the guest speaker, Ben Elisondo, safety training coordinator for California State University, Northridge. Elisondo presented strategies based on his experience at CSUN as disaster chief during and following the 1994 Northridge earthquake that destroyed about 95 percent of the school's buildings.

"There are many different components in putting it together," Elisondo said. "It really comes down to cooperation."

Albert defined *disaster* as something that takes away all resources. "We need to train to be on our own for 72 hours," Albert said. "The school shouldn't depend on outside help in a disaster that affects the community. We may not be top priority."

"You have all been deputized whether you like it or not," Albert said. Tom Jacobsmeier, vice president of administrative services and coordinator of the emergency response plan, spoke of the necessity to be self-contained and the urgency of communicating who will be on the teams.

"This is a huge training nightmare," Deputy Sheriff Sgt. See 'PLAN' on page 6

"Pippin" on Stage



TAMMY ABBOT / VALLEY STAR

MAGIC TO DO- Valley College's Theater Arts Dept. presented *Pippin* directed by Pete Parkin. Audiences enjoyed the dazzling display of color, costumes, and wonderful performances on April 3 through April 12 in the Mainstage Theater.

Theatre Department Missing Thousands

By JACKIE CONLEY
STAFF WRITER

The case of \$64,000 in unaccounted funds began to receive attention recently after a Valley Collegiate Players meeting. The missing funds were part of a block grant to the theater arts department they should have received three years ago. Intended mainly for lighting, it's unclear where the money went.

The issue comes when colleges statewide are struggling to find funds to maintain education as a result of the recent budget crisis.

"I'm not going to cry about," performing arts technician Art Brickman said. "You just do the best you can."

Block grants provide funds to maintain necessities in each department annually. The theater arts department received \$64,000 after researching and submitting a budget request to replace lighting in the theater three years ago. No member of the theater department has seen the funds.

Many think Maryann Breckell, Valley College's former vice president of administrative services, is responsible. "The buck would stop with her," theater department chair Pete Parkin said. "I was told not to make any waves." He thinks there was a bookkeeping error or the money was used for something else. "It's a

See 'THEATER' on page 7

ASU Offices Remain Open

By KATHY ARELLANO AND
BEN JAURON
STAFF WRITERS

Few students applied to run for the Associated Student Union positions that will be vacant later this semester. Three applied to run for president, one for vice president, one for treasurer, one for commissioner of political affairs and one for student and social affairs. Furthermore, few students vote in the elections.

"Last year, only about 800 voted," Political Affairs commissioner Maria Agazaryan said.

"We're hoping to get 1,500 voters this year. That's not too much to ask when the student body is close to 20,000."

Agazaryan said there've been posters soliciting ASU candidates posted for more than a month and they will have to do the best they can with what they have.

There will be a candidates forum in Monarch hall today at 11 a.m. The candidates for student body president are James Brevard, ASU commissioner of fine arts, Psychology Club President Efrein Gonzales and student Kenny Alvarado.

Brevard said his experience as an ASU commissioner and with various campus clubs and

See 'ASU' on page 7

Denim Raises Rape Awareness

By JACQUI BROWN
STAFF WRITER

A woman is sexually assaulted every two minutes. One in two rape victims are under 18. In three out of four assaults reported to police, the perpetrator is someone the victim knows, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

The Los Angeles Commission on Assaults Against Women (LACAAW) has designated today as Denim Day, a public education campaign to dispel harmful attitudes about sexual assault. Denim Day was created in 1999 after an Italian

judge overturned a rape conviction because the victim wore jeans. Since jeans aren't removed easily, the judge reasoned, the victim must have cooperated. Wearing denim today in protest of rape will help debunk the myth that the victim deserved it, according to LACAAW. Valley College has supported Denim Day for the past three years.

"It's important that we demonstrate how serious rape and sexual assault are as issues in our society," Valley President Tyree Wieder said. "The more people are aware of these events, the better the opportunity we'll

have for prevention. The denim day idea has been confusing. People don't always understand the point that no one asks to be raped because of their dress." Wieder said she would be appropriately attired today.

There were 1,337 rapes reported to the police in Los Angeles last year. There have been 335 reported from January 1 thru April 5 this year, an increase of 1.2 percent from the same period last year, according to the Los Angeles Police Department. With only one in seven attacks reported to authorities, rape is one of the most

See 'DENIM' on page 7

Gusmao Honored at Women in Education Day

By KRISTA CARLSON
NEWS EDITOR

Valley College honored counselor Ivna Gusmao at the Women in Education celebration held in Monarch Hall earlier this month. Forty people attended the event, including 10 students Gusmao helped.

"This is a most overwhelming honor, I'm kind of dumbfounded about this," Gusmao said. "I feel like I'm just doing my job."

"The students need a role model and they need somebody that's concerned about their future, and that's what Ivna is all about," selection committee member Sonja Brown of Associated Student Union said.

Fourteen nominees submitted resumes, biographies and awards they received. The committee then rated each applicant based on their position as a role

model, visibility on campus, accessibility, community connection and contribution to education.

"As part of women's history month we wanted an event that would tie into the campus," ASU adviser Sherri Rodriguez said.

The majority of Valley employees are female, according to the Vice President of Student Services Yasmin Delahoussaye. Every person in the crowd responded positively when Delahoussaye asked who had been touched by a woman in their educational stride, and they proceeded to give Gusmao a standing ovation.

"Whether as a teacher, counselor, or administrator, Ivna has always recognized students that needed attention," Delahoussaye said.

Gusmao began her work in education with emergency cre-

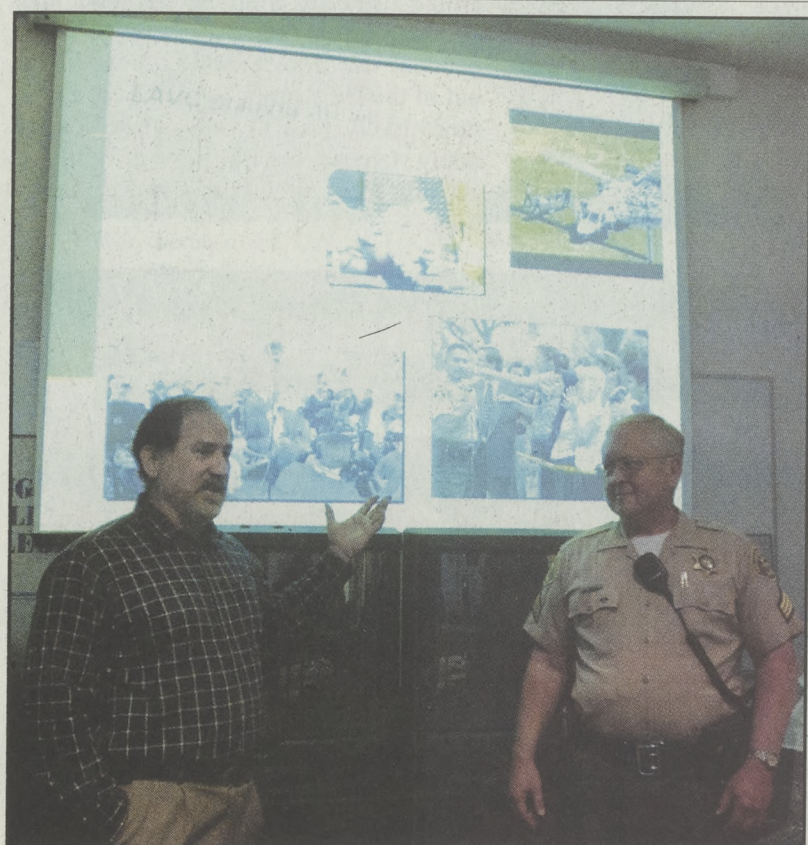
dentials at Washington Irving middle school in Eagle Rock in 1985, teaching English as a Second Language because the field was in high demand.

"I had this room full of kids who were eager and wanted to

learn about the world they were in," Gusmao said. "I did the best I could, asked all the questions I could to other teachers and some miracles happened."

Gusmao grew up in Rio de

See 'WOMEN' on page 7



TAMMY ABBOT / VALLEY STAR

EMERGENCY PLANNING- Lou Albert and Deputy Eric Hartman explain the Valley College emergency procedures.



ALEX DASH / VALLEY STAR

MONARCH HALL - Ivna Gusmao (seated) enjoys a standing ovation from her peers, at the second annual Women in Education Celebration.

Revitalizing Valley With Prop A Funds

By KRISTA CARLSON
NEWS EDITOR

Revitalizing Valley College, a project funded by Proposition A funds now has 24 planning and building projects now underway or complete. Valley has received \$165 million under Proposition A, passed by voters spring 2001.

URS Project Manager Alix O'Brien recently hosted a status meeting to update those involved. The final draft of the master plan is complete, and a model of the future campus is on display in the foyer of the administration building.

"We're going to build four buildings almost simultaneously on campus," O'Brien said.

Major construction projects include the media arts center, library and learning resources center, allied health sciences building, the campus operations center and renovation of the athletics complex. There are 14 building renovation plans that have been prioritized and reviewed by the College Council.

The programs for the allied health sciences building, the media arts center, the learning resource center and the north gym have been completed. Costs for the allied health sciences building project are estimated at \$15.3 million. The program for the student services and administration center is in progress. The athletic fields and facilities work is under contract. Architect and engineering selections have been made for the gym and media arts center. Also, the elevator in the campus center is now operational.

Architects are negotiating with URS for the plant facilities and allied health sciences buildings. URS still needs to select architects for the library, media arts center and the gymnasium complex. They've contracted La Cañada Design for the plant and sheriff's facilities, to be in one location — the campus operations center.

"We need to look at the aesthetic details of campus to come up with design guidelines," O'Brien said. This is scheduled for summer of this year.

Building User Groups have formed for the media arts, north gym, allied health sciences and resource learning center buildings. The groups are composed of faculty and academic deans who work with representatives from URS. The URS Corp. oversees all con-



BENJAMIN FAVELA / VALLEY STAR

CAMPUS OF THE FUTURE - Valley College President Tyree Wieder and counseling department secretary Selma Cohen inspect the model of Valley's future landscape.

sultants, contractors, and the master architect for the bond projects.

A public meeting will be held May 7 for review of the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR). There hasn't been much participation yet, even though URS mailed notices to every business and resident within 3,000 feet of Valley. URS expects to complete the EIR by September. The College Citizens Committee will look at the draft EIR before the meeting. One issue is lighting improvements because if lights are too high or too bright, neighbors could find them obnoxious.

Community members are welcomed to attend meetings on campus for the draft EIR May 7 and 27, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. to discuss concerns, including placement of the learning resource center.

Wieder has met with the Land Use Committee and the Valley Glen Neighborhood Council to confer about the progress. She says both groups are happy with the status of things at this point.

"Although there's been a great deal of work going on, the biggest issue is raising awareness in the community," College Citizens Committee Co-chair Kenn Phillips said. "The resources provided by Proposition A will meet demands for higher education now and

in the future, while also connecting the community and businesses to customized training."

A Design Guideline Committee will hold several meetings through June to look at existing buildings and landscape on campus, to determine what will be used as departure points for the new buildings and landscaping. The committee consists of administration, faculty and student representatives.

"One example of a departure point would be the arcade and it's trees and unusual plantings," O'Brien said. New construction will be done in other locations and around these points. There are no plans to remove any of the plants at Valley, but some may be relocated, O'Brien said.

"This plan's not very controversial, the major issue is the placement of the library," O'Brien said. "The community has been very supportive of the facilities master plan."

"We want definite student input," Valley President Tyree Wieder said, referring not only to the draft EIR, but all prospective work conducted under Proposition A. "We haven't had a lot of students in on these meetings."

As services in the campus center prepare for relocation, the committees make plans for backfilling the spaces.

See 'PROP. A' on page 7

No Exceptions to the 15 Minute Rule

By JACKIE CONLEY
STAFF WRITER

One of the many perks for college students is the right to come and go to classes when they choose. In college, students are expected to behave responsibly. If students take an absence, they should call or e-mail the instructor and borrow notes from a classmate. Too many absences and they risk their instructors dropping them from the class. But what about teachers?

"If a teacher is going to be late or absent, instructors are asked to call," Vice President of Academic Affairs Carlie Tronto said. The school will then try to place a sign-in sheet on the classroom door. "On the very rare occasion that they don't, we tell the students to go back and wait, or leave a note for the instructor in their box."

What about the 15-minute rule? "Back when I went to school, there was a 10 to 15 minute rule," Tronto said. The 15-minute rule says that, if a teacher is 15 minutes late to class, the students are allowed to leave.

"I thought students made it up in high school," student Jaime Mejia said. "You can plant an idea and people will believe it."

"If the teachers aren't here in 15 minutes, you bounce," Erica Hawks said.

"Fifteen minutes you can leave," Mario Fernandez said. "Pass around a roll sheet, put it on the door and leave."

As much as students would like to believe this unofficial rule exists, it doesn't. It's not an official school policy. Call it an urban legend, a fairy tale or a myth.

Instructors must notify the vice president of academic affairs as far in advance as possible when they're

going to be absent, according to the faculty handbook. The teacher is also responsible for filling out an absence card. Failing to do so can result in the district withholding their salary.

There is no rule regarding a teacher's attendance, according to district chancellor's office.

"There's not?" said Hawks. "In my mind there is."

But like some urban legends and fairy tales, doesn't this imaginary rule have some truth to it? Some think the rule possibly applies to four-year colleges. But according to UCLA Associate Dean Joan Nelson, the 15-minute rule does not apply there.

"There's no written rule, it's a campus legend," said John Mason, Assistant Vice President of Faculty Affairs at Cal State Northridge. There was a rule when he went to school during the 1960s, but the rule applied by ranks, according to Mason. The number of minutes students waited depended on what the teacher's status was. "Students would give an assistant professor five minutes to show up after the class starts," he said. "If you were a professor it was 10 minutes and so on."

"The professors always show up on time, my understanding was that it was a very old policy," said Dean Sarah Pratt from USC Department of College Arts and Letters. "We do not grade on attendance, we grade on participation." Dean Pratt said she expects people to use common sense when it comes to attendance.

Students shouldn't feel discouraged because there is no official rule to stand behind if the teacher is late to class. They have the right to complain — it is their time, money, and education — after all, promptness is considered common courtesy.

Los Angeles Snubs Daycare Realignment

By JACQUI BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Los Angeles City Council members voted unanimously to oppose the realignment of childcare funds earlier this month. Council President Alex Padilla introduced the motion opposing cuts in child development and childcare programs.

"This budget proposal may result in the loss of quality child care for young children in our city," Padilla said. "Fiscal responsibility need not be achieved by balancing our state budget on the backs of our children." He said by realigning child development funds from the California Department of Education to individual counties, the Los Angeles Unified School District would not be guaranteed their current funding.

This proposal will eliminate CalWORKS Stage 3 childcare subsidies, which enables families to have childcare for up to two years once they have left the welfare system. Many low-income families can't afford a modest standard of living without assistance for their childcare costs, according to the California Department of Finance.

If CalWORKS Stage 3 is eliminated, approximately 55,000 children will lose their childcare, said the California Budget Project, an independent watchdog of fiscal and economic policy issues in California. Working families will be forced to join overcrowded waiting lists for alternative subsidized childcare programs.

"It's hard to lay out a budget when you don't know what money you're getting," Larry Merkle, Director of the Valley Campus Child Development Center said. "It's not going to improve the profession for people. It's not going to improve salaries. What we're focusing on now, especially colleges, is the permissive tax override that has provided half of our funding for 25 years. If we lose that money we're in serious trouble."

This realignment of funding might help in the short term but could jeopardize all future child development and childcare programs, according to independent watchdogs. Taking these funds out of the Department of Education will more likely lead to the elimination of many state run programs rather than the subsidization of current childcare facilities.



ALEX DASH / VALLEY STAR

CHILD CARE - Gayane Gasparian teaches painting to the students at Valley's Child Development center.

Dean's Reception Honors Students

By BILLIE JORDAN
STAFF WRITER

More than 350 Valley College students and their families and friends gathered together in Monarch Hall April 10 for the Dean's

Reception to honor students for their academic achievements. Some received President's List honors for their outstanding performance in the last three semesters.

"It's really been a com-

mitment," student Sandra Booker said of the honor. "It's been very challenging and very rewarding."

The Associated Student Union sponsored the event with a budget of almost \$2,500. "We've been preparing for the Dean's Reception since the beginning of the spring semester," ASU adviser Sherri Rodriguez said.

To celebrate the occasion, campus center hallway showcases displayed the names of those honored and signs above the Monarch Hall stage welcomed honorees. Finger foods prepared by the cooking class enhanced the festivity.

Under dim lights, student musicians Michael Camp and Aki Yambe serenaded guests with music by Italian and German composers.

"I see more faces this semester, that means a lot more people are competing for better grades," ASU President Sam Kbushyan said.

Students had to maintain at least 3.5 GPA to make the dean's list. Those on the President's List received a gold plated pin, stage recognition, an invitation to Valley's oldest club and honor society, Tau Alpha Epsilon and eligibility for Phi Theta Kappa, a nationally recognized community college honor society.

"I extend my personal congratulations," Vice President of Academic Affairs Carlotta Tronto said.

"Do something with your education and continue your excellence. Use all your resources to see how you personally can make a difference in the world,"

Honorees were encouraged to move on to the next step, and to realize that life learning is continuous. "Remain open to all ideals," Tronto said. "There are no limits, only those we put on our selves."

"You make us proud. Congratulations — you are well on your way to reaching your goal. I hope you set higher goals still," Ivna Gusmao, Valley counselor and winner of the 2003 Women in Education award said. "I sincerely hope that your education will help you question your leaders. With education comes great responsibility. Settle disputes with diplomacy rather than war. Search for the fire in you belly and do what you love."

"All the hard work paid off. I can't believe I did it," student Angelica Corona Martinez said.

"It's been a great experience. I can't say enough about how helpful and supportive the teachers are and how much [my son] has learned," Christian Name? Maguire, Commissioner of student and social affairs said. "The one on one attention is great." Maguire's son John has been on the dean's list for four semesters and the President's List for the second time.



SALVADOR AGUILAR / VALLEY STAR

HONORS - Valley College President Tyree Wieder greets students at the recent Dean's Reception for exceptional students.

OPINION

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STAFF EDITORIAL

History Bites the Dust

The ink of America's newest chapter in history is drying. Operation Iraqi Freedom was a quick and decisive military success. Iraq as we knew it is gone and hopes of installing a stable liberal democracy run high. The price for the United States and its coalition partners will run into the billions but the historic and cultural price the Iraqis and the world are paying may never be calculable.

Priceless, ancient and irreplaceable artifacts and literature from the Babylonian and other eras mingle in the ash heaps of history after an orgy of looters defiled Baghdad museums and libraries in the days following the American capture and control

of the city.

U.S. military officials claim the looting took place due to a "void in security" that existed while troops were ridding the city of combatants. However, some statements Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld made put a question mark on just how sensitive Washington is willing to be towards the preservation of Iraqi history.

"Freedom's untidy, and free people are free to make mistakes and commit crimes and do bad things," Rumsfeld said of the looting of the Baghdad Museum and other buildings. One wonders what kind of message is relayed when someone in Rumsfeld's position chalks up

"In a cultural and historical sense, we might as well have hit Baghdad with a nuclear bomb."

lawlessness, vandalism and outright mayhem as just "stuff happening."

The loss of treasures of this magnitude can't be dismissed as stuff happening. This doesn't represent a loss for the people of Iraq alone but as a loss for all mankind. Truly important and necessary links between the past

and present lay smoldering in the ruins or shattered in the store-rooms of a vanquished Baghdad.

Rumsfeld's statements almost make the looting and vandalism seem like an expectable outcome from oppressed people. If so, why wasn't the secretary of defense, who obviously had an idea this might happen, a bit

more proactive about the protection of these repositories of Iraqi culture and history? If the center of Baghdad was secured when the looting took place, why weren't military officials quicker to order troops to stop citizens from looting museums and libraries?

Something smells rotten in the city of Baghdad and it ain't Saddam. Either Rumsfeld and his lot miscalculated the Iraqi people's pent-up hostility or they had other things on their plate. Like making sure the Iraqi Oil Ministry was well guarded or perhaps destroying an ancient cultural history and using it as mulch for a newly planted liberal democracy. We may not know

the truth for years.

In a cultural and historical sense, we might as well have hit Baghdad with a nuclear bomb. Not unlike the fallout seen in places like Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the backlash of these losses and the vacuum of learning created in its absence might stunt, maim and poison the people of Iraq and the world for many generations. Pieces of ancient civilizations that survived centuries through war and peace were vanquished and destroyed.

We may not know if Rumsfeld or anyone else knew this was going to happen, but history does have a habit of repeating itself if it's erased.

AN OPINION

A Vocational A.A. Degree Needed

BY LAWRENCE STONE
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

I've talked to many Valley College students recently who desire only an associate's degree to prepare for a new field of employment, and they have no plans to transfer to a university. A large number of these students have completed all of their major and state requirements but saved the toughest required class for last — algebra.

Many of these students can't graduate due to the arduous algebra requirement and are

forced to temporarily halt their quest for the associate's degree. I received my first associate's in 1981, and algebra was not a graduation requirement then. Years later I enrolled at Valley in pursuit of a second degree.

I've had to take many new requirements towards graduation such as speech communication and critical thinking, which I found very helpful and I applaud them. But then came the algebra requirement, a weighty math course many students say they'll never use. One additional problem arose for many students

when the community colleges went from an 18-week to a 15-week semester. The algebra homework intensified to make up for the three weeks lost.

Needless to say, when the students took their algebra tests, they were a mass of complexity. Many students needed the 18-week semester to have a less intensive saturation of instruction on this complicated subject. I would like to propose to the State Board of Governors of California Community Colleges that they initiate a new, separate vocational associate's degree for

students seeking a 2-year occupational curriculum.

A less intensive course like pre-algebra could replace the algebra requirement for the vocational students, a class that reviews basic math and gives an introduction to algebra. The pre-algebra class would give students an adequate competence in math in attaining a desirable 2-year vocational degree.

Lawrence Stone is a Valley College magazine journalism major.

Letters to the Editor

In the Valley Star's Campus View, March 26, 2003, reporters asked students if news networks should broadcast footage of the U.S. prisoners of war on television. Three of the four students featured replied no.

I disagree. With respect to the families of these captured soldiers, I believe Americans must see that this is a war and there are casualties in war. It's not a football game, war doesn't need a pep rally. I support the men and women of our armed forces, but I urge all Americans to view the war with a critical eye and healthy skepticism. To see only pre-digested, censored footage of war on television, if it must be on television at all, is to treat the American people as if they were simpletons, hiding the realities and ramifications of war with subterfuge and deception.

It looks like our government wants to quash any remnants of public outrage over this war if we learn the truth: that American soldiers are dying and innocent Iraqi men, women and children are dying too.

Andrea Zollman
Student

I would like to issue a complaint to the organizers of the Pershing Square student rally, which took place March 28, as well as a complaint to the Valley Associated Student Union.

I'm a student who requires the use of an electric wheelchair, and I did wish to attend the rally as well as participate. Unfortunately, proper accommodations weren't available for me to attend. When I arrived at the designated place on campus where I was told transportation would be available, I discovered neither of the two buses meant to take students to the rally could accommodate my wheelchair. The first bus wasn't accessible at all. The second was supposed to accommodate me, but it wasn't accessible to people in wheelchairs like mine. To board I would have had to get out of my wheelchair and go up the steps. And, even if I had been able to do that, the ramp was too narrow for my electric wheelchair to be fit on the bus.

I watched — alone — as the two busloads of students, faculty and administrators pulled away from the curb. I felt unfairly excluded and "dissed," not only because the transportation was inaccessible to electric wheelchairs, but no one stayed behind to assist me to order another mode of transportation.

The Americans with Disabilities Act is supposed to make college activities accessible to all students. In this situation the college is not in compliance with the federal law. I'm very disappointed and upset the ASU didn't make proper accommodations to transport students with disabilities similar to mine to the rally.

Cilo Hidalgo Jr.
Student

As well as the Valley Star, this letter was addressed to Valley President Tyree Wieder, Vice President of Student Services Yasmin Delahoussaye, compliance officer Kathryn Divine, the student body president and Disabled Students Programs and Services chair Kathleen Sullivan.

Editorial Cartoon

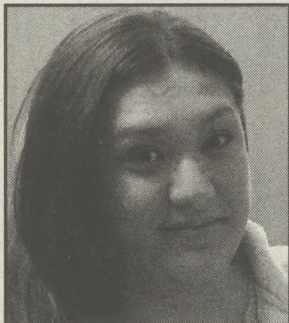


ILLUSTRATION BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS / VALLEY STAR

CampusView

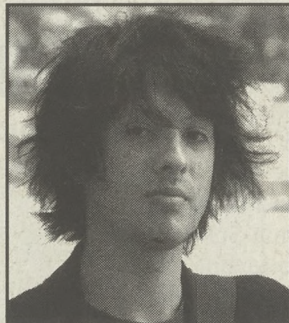
Do you think democracy will take hold in Iraq?

PHOTOS BY ALEX DASH



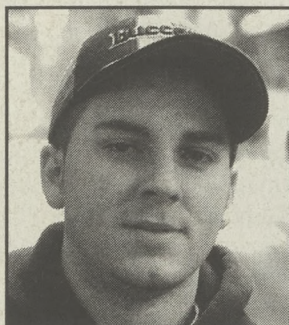
"No, because the U.S. is doing it. And we're saying violence is the way to do it."

Denise Mendez



"What we have in the U.S. is what they'll have in Iraq."

Luis Rivas



"People over there don't know what democracy is, and it will take a while for them to realize it."

Jose Padron



"No, unless America's democracy runs it."

Jacky Lopez

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VALLEY LIFE

University Representatives California State University, Northridge

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays in
Career/Transfer Center

UCLA Day

10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. April 23
in Monarch Square and
Monarch Hall

MUSIC

John Zuckerman, 18-year-old
Flutist, 11:30 a.m. April 24 in
the Music Recital Hall. Free.

LAVC Philharmonic Choir

conducted by Jennifer Kelly,
7 p.m. April 27 at the Mainstage
Theatre. Admission Charge

Scott Tennant, Classical

Guitar, 8 p.m. April 27 in the
Music Recital Hall. Admission
Charge
Sunday, April 27

LAVC Wind Ensemble, con-

ducted by Michael Mertens,
8 p.m. April 28 at the Mainstage
Theatre. Admission charge.

OTHER

Health Science Career Fair,
9 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 28 in
Monarch Hall.

Shoah Remebrance,

Sponsored by Hillel and the
LAVC Associated Student Union
11 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 30 in
Monarch Hall.

Valley Star Awards High at JACC

BY BEN JAURON
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The Valley Star racked up 17 journalism awards and the Crown magazine scored four at the recent Journalism Association of Community Colleges convention in Sacramento. More than 50 community colleges statewide participated in the event that featured mail-in, bring-in and on the spot competitions.

First place sports news photo, second place spot news story and overall general excellence for the fall 2002 semester were among the awards the Star's staff received.

Sterling Andrews was the editor-in-chief for fall 2002. She led the Star to its first general excellence award since 1991. The Star was one of six student newspapers to receive the honor.

"I'm thrilled and grateful," Andrews said. "If this doesn't prove what a hardworking and dedicated staff we have, nothing will. Many staff members made several sacrifices to make this a newspaper students and faculty can be proud of. It feels good to know it hasn't gone unnoticed."

Veteran staff photographer Jorge Gallegos won first place in the state for his photo from a Monarchs pre-season basketball game against Masters Nov. 1, 2002. Gallegos also won second place for a bring-in photo and third for an on-the-spot feature photo.

"Winning feels great considering it was a state contest and seeing my progress after being on the staff for so many semesters," Gallegos said. "Being my fourth JACC, I've been having better results and getting more confidence on find-

ing a job as a photojournalist."

Serena Daniels won second place in the on-the-spot reporting competition for covering a press conference regarding the morning after pill.

"I still can't believe it," Daniels said. "This finally validates all the hard work I've done here. The weekend was productive, I learned a lot and I value the bonds I've forged with my fellow classmates."

It was sports editor Bob Teichmann's first JACC. He won second place for one sports feature photo and honorable mention for another.

"It's interesting to see so many schools do many things to get to one goal," Teichmann said. "I'm just glad I was rewarded for my efforts."

Rookie staff writer Ivy Dai was new to the event too, and though she didn't win any awards she said it was a fruitful experience.

"It was fun, it was stressful at times but I'm happy with my 'War Candy' article," Dai said. "You kind of feel cooped up in the hotel for three days. I took a designers' workshop that was interesting and helpful."

Design director Renee Rose Barrera won a \$500 scholarship named for journalist, author and longtime JACC lecturer Don Ray. She was also the driving force behind the Crown's second place award for magazine layout and the Star's honorable mention for front-page broadsheet design.

"It's rewarding to know that people appreciate the work that I love so much," Barrera said. "It's fun seeing peers from all the different community colleges."

Snow Frog Productions uses rented or donated equipment, and participates in networking within the film industry. A few of the movies have been scored or edited by industry professionals.

In April, Snow Frog will have a special screening at the Independent Film Project West Theater in Beverly Hills for three of their short films: Candy Dealers (a documentary), Amuse (a romantic comedy), and Moving On (a dark piece). Elliott hopes to complete a feature film next year based on a screenplay he wrote.

Elliott said the company is always looking for set hands, grips and production assistants. He believes this is a great way to get started in the filmmaking business, and a great opportunity to get to know fellow students. "It's about making something of substance for very little," said Elliott.

- Staff Photographer Alex Dash also contributed to this report. See gallery on page 10 for Snow Frog photos.



TAMMY ABBOTT/VALLEY STAR

VICTORY- Former Editor in Chief Sterling Andrews rejoices after the Valley Star won Broadsheet General Excellence for the fall 2002 semester at the Journalism Association of Community Colleges state conference in Sacramento recently.

VALLEY STAR'S AWARDS

Broadsheet General Excellence

Valley Star Staff, Fall 2002

1st Place

Sports News Photo — Jorge Gallegos

2nd place

Sports Feature Photo — Bob Teichmann

Infographic — Sterling Andrews

Bring-in Photo — Jorge Gallegos

Spot News Writing — Serena Daniels

3rd Place

Editorial Cartoon — Dylan Hay-Chapman

Spot News Photo — Salvador Aguilar

Spot Feature Photo — Jorge Gallegos

Honorable Mention

Feature photo — Tammy Abbott

Photo Essay/Story — Tammy Abbott

Sports Feature Photo — Bob Teichmann

Front Page Design (Broadsheet) —

Renee Rose Barrera

Bring-in Photo — Alex Dash

Photo Illustration — Sterling Andrews

Spot News Photo — Benjamin Favela

Spot Team Feature Story and Photo —

Nicole Sunkes and Samantha Kuppig

CROWN'S AWARDS

2nd Place

Magazine Layout — Renee Rose Barrera

News Feature Article — Carol Long and

Renee Rose Barrera

Honorable Mention

Magazine Photo — Susie Speck Mayor

News Feature Article — Kim Upton and Fiona

Hearst

DON RAY SCHOLARSHIP

Renee Rose Barrera

Monarchs Produce at Snow Frog

BY JACKIE CONLEY
STAFF WRITER

Snow Frog Productions' co-founder Jeremy Elliott said almost everything he knows about filmmaking came from his year and a half at Valley College. "In essence, it started here," he said. "These teachers aren't only knowledgeable, but inspiring as well."

Elliott called the Cinema 101 class at Valley a boot camp. "You learn everything from lighting, editing and blocking out scenes, to working with actors," he said.

On-the-job experience, even for fledgling filmmakers, is crucial, though.

"So many students believe the

only knowledge they can obtain right now is through a classroom," Elliott said. "With advancements in digital technology there is no reason not to start shooting stuff on your own, right away."

Elliott and the rest of the 20- and 30-something film company founders have recently returned from shooting Snow Frog's fifth movie, on location in Northern California. Elliott says that they operate as well as a professional team. On set, they had a crew of 25 and an "extras" cast of 120. They had permits, and access to a small town at no cost. "Usually, staging a shoot on location could cost millions," Elliott said. "We just produced it well."

In order to keep costs down,



LIFE'S SIMPLE MOMENTS SLICE OF LIFE

BY JACQUI BROWN

bring a friend and my son didn't. It took me a few hours to dissipate my son's wrath. Last year we ended our vacation two days early because he took his friend. It's my fault because I forgot my referee shirt and whistle. Or was it that I recently decided to stop taking my antidepressants? I'm not really sure. But after that fiasco, I swore I'd never take another one of his friends. I stuck with the plan.

I know you're wondering where this is leading, but with my daughter and her friend taking care of each other, I was able to spend a lot of quality time with my son, who needs to be entertained 24 hours a day. In the first hours we were there, we swam, jacuzzied, rented bikes. We walked down to the ocean, we

ate and then watched movies. Are you getting the picture now?

On the second day the girls took over the hot tub, my husband went golfing and my son and I went on a kite flying adventure. The kite was last year's birthday present that had never been flown before. We headed down to the water's edge, away from all obstacles. I held the kite towards the wind as he gripped the reel of string tightly. It took only a moment for it to take flight. As each inch of string let loose, the look on my sons face — the light in his eyes as he watched that jellyfish-shaped kite rise higher and higher — erased every moment of aggravation and exhaustion from my mind.

I saw, as he did, the wonder of this simple moment. The exhilaration in every wind gust. We spent hours talking and walking along the shore with that kite flying high overhead. I remembered that this is why we keep coming here. It's for moments like these — silly conversation, the solemn hat over his heart, his bowed head, a tribute to all the other lost kites. I remembered that I so often get caught up in everyday life and that I need to make more time for moments with my son and a kite on a windy day.

Former Valley Student Takes Real Life Experience to Reel School

BY IVY DAI
STAFF WRITER

Mingling with the diverse student population at Valley College, you would think you've met the rarest of students. When you meet Valley alumnus Gary Simpson though, you might think again.

Simpson worked concurrently as an actor and a firefighter/paramedic in Florida before moving to the San Fernando Valley in 1992 to pursue acting opportunities in Los Angeles.

"Being a paramedic is incredible training as an actor — you gain a whole different perspective on life," Simpson said. He has appeared in TV shows and films such as "JAG," "Married with Children," "Melrose Place" and "Living Single" and was Macy's national spokesperson in 1996.

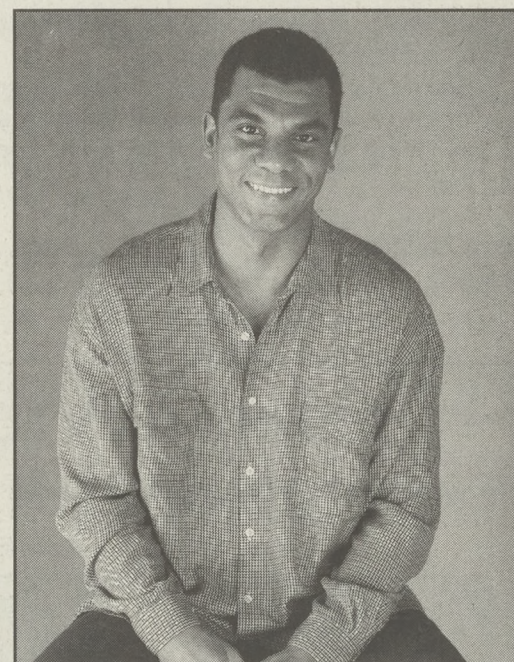
While at Valley, he served as Vice President for the Associated Student Union in 2000-01 and participated in the Transfer Alliance Program (TAP). Simpson graduated from Valley in spring 2001, and began the University of Southern California School of Cinema and Television the following fall. USC awarded him a \$12,500 Presidential Scholarship upon transfer.

University of California, Berkeley, awarded Simpson a four-year UC Regents Scholarship that he turned down to attend USC. Simpson also received an \$8,400 Hanes Scholarship to study sociology, his second choice of major. "I was so inspired by Tom Yacovone that I wanted to study sociology," Simpson said.

TAP Director and sociology instructor Thomas Yacovone speaks of Simpson proudly, as an individual that beat the odds. "Only five out of 500 applicants were accepted for the USC School of Cinema and Television. That's a one percent chance, and Gary made it. It's amazing," Yacovone said.

Simpson credits much of his success to TAP. "Choosing to be in the TAP program was one of the best decisions in my academic career," Simpson said. "Meeting Tom Yacovone was one of my most memorable experiences. His commitment and dedication is rare and a tribute to the program."

"Gary was an outstanding student, very talented and academically driven," said Dr.



TAMMY ABBOTT/VALLEY STAR

TAP SUCCESS- Gary Simpson is currently attending film school at USC, due in part to his success in Valley's TAP program.

Alfred Zucker, Chair of the English Department at Valley.

After graduating from USC, the multi-talented Simpson plans to write and direct his own independent films to showcase in the film festival circuit. One of his goals is to break down ethnic stereotypes in the media.

"One of the things I enjoyed most at Valley was the diverse student body," Simpson said. "You see Asians, blacks and Latinos doing different things than what is shown on TV and in the movies."

His nine years as a paramedic certainly seemed to have contributed to his open-minded approach towards people's differences. "In a disaster, people's inhibitions and protections are down, and you realize we're all the same. We all have the same needs and all need help," Simpson said. "Prejudice that might've been there ten minutes ago dissolves when someone is there to help."

When he started at Valley in 1999, Simpson wanted to take control of his career and produce his own work. Four years later, he finally has the opportunity to make his dreams come to life.

Related Story: "Honors Program," pg. 5

Student-run KVCM Spins Sounds at Valley

BY JAMES DABBAGIAN
STAFF WRITER

A group of 18 students stand out at Valley College, held together by their beliefs, their abilities and the radio equipment that takes all of their abuse. KVCM, Valley's own radio station, is the only student-run station in all of Southern California, according to broadcasting professor Gail Nastasia.

KVCM began broadcasting in the 1960s and boasts a collection of at least 500 songs, ranging from hip-hop and rock to classical and Spanish. Students use VaultXpress, one of the top-of-the-line Disc Jockey systems, which accounts for the station's music variety. Ancient equipment dating back to the 1970s is strewn throughout the control room, mixed with relatively new equipment. Valley used to have an AM frequency, but lost it due to lack of funds, according to online information.

Tony Valdez, who's known as DJ Quest on air, is the

station manager. "I always wanted to be a DJ on the radio," he said, adding that he used to spin turntables before joining with the radio station. KVCM DJs enjoy their work. "For me, it's the fact that I can entertain people," said DJ Michelangelo, who's been with KVCM for three and a half years.

DJs-in-training are not the only broadcasting students that are shooting for the airwaves. "I want to see where it leads me," said Michael Brian, a broadcasting student. "The journey, the airwaves, I think it would be cool."

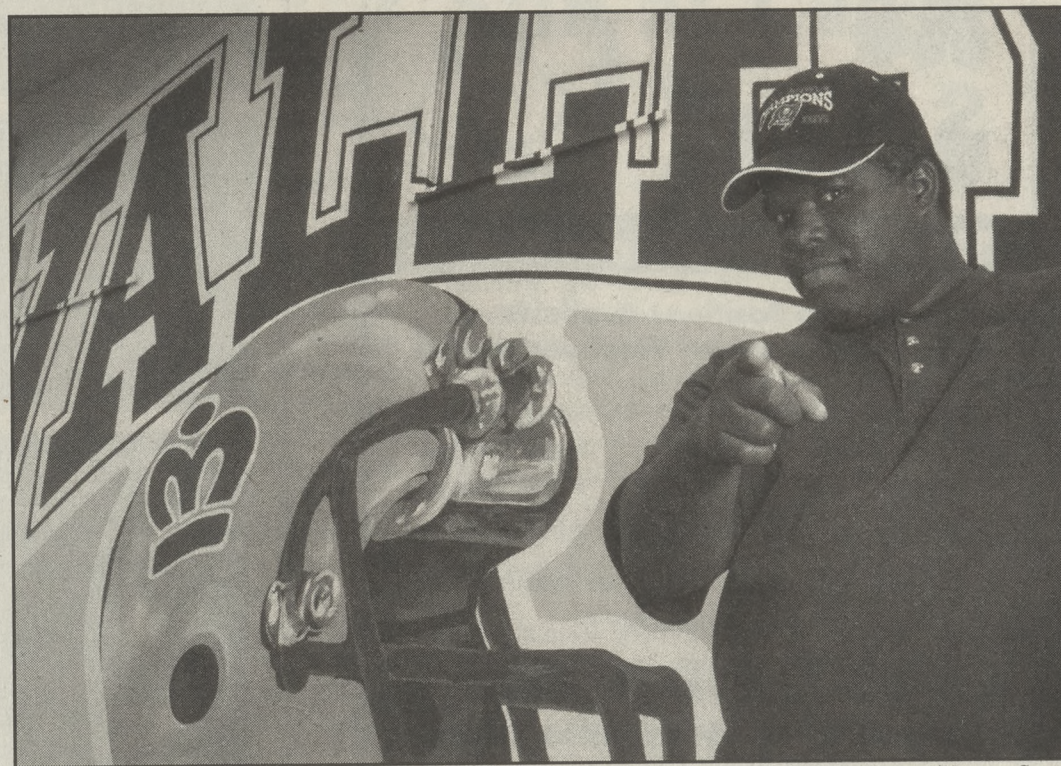
"We're not DJs," said Brian Alvarado, claiming that his job description goes beyond the confines of the term. "We're radio personalities."

When asked to compare themselves with radio personalities at other stations, most considered themselves equal. They agreed that KVCM was the minor league, and the FM radio stations were the big leagues.

KVCM airs on Adelphia Cable, channel 25, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Most of the shows, including "The Mad Maggie Hour" and "Disgruntled Love" air two days a week. Visit their website at www.kvcmvannuys.com.

As DJ Michelangelo said, "Tune into KVCM, because you'll never know what's going to happen!"

Cousins Clean up Valley



SAMANTHA KUPPIG/VALLEY STAR

MONARCH PRIDE- Valley College custodian Pete James is a fan of the Monarch football team.

BY SUSAN MALTBY
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Around campus, the two are known as "Big Joe" and "Little Pete" — a bit of an ironic twist because Pete is actually the larger of the two. Joe Luna Carter and Pete James, two members of Valley College's custodial staff, are hardworking cousins and experienced at janitorial work.

"I'm a total Valley person," Pete said. "I love this school."

Pete and Joe worked weekends in Pete's father's company when they were kids. Leo, the elder James, recently retired after serving the district for 16 years. They take pride in doing the very best job they can here on campus. It's their priority to keep the classrooms clean. But they do much more.

"I feel like I can do more for the school, more than just my job as a custodian," Pete said. "I'm here to support and encourage the students. Maybe I can help them. I have a little wisdom."

Pete's worked at Valley for 10 years and Joe chose to pursue a career with his cousin three years ago. Joe worked hard as a volunteer to earn an entry-level position the following year, commuting from the high desert every day. Valley then promoted Joe to his current position as Maintenance Department Custodian.

"I'm very thankful to my cousin Pete," Joe said. "And Charles Long, the wonderful man who hired me on."

Pete and Joe share a large extended family. Born in Mobile, Ala., Joe's seven brothers and two sisters lost their mother to kidney failure when she was 38 years old. The family was angry at the hospital and had a hard time accepting her death.

"Forgiveness is important," Joe said. "If you don't forgive, you destroy yourself."

Joe, 41, is single, has raised three children and is a grandfather of two. He's 5'10" with a medium frame, and very muscular. The hard work and heavy lifting of his current job is what keeps him in shape today. He had career goals toward law enforcement and worked in security for several years, but he said he didn't change his mind because of fear.

"You didn't have to be a cop to get shot in the street where I grew up," Joe said. "In school, I knew the Crips and Bloods. When they were around I said, 'I'm goin' to the band room.'"

Joe is an accomplished musician and earned a full music scholarship after graduat-

ing Dominguez High School in 1980. But he studied electronics instead, hoping to improve music technology. When he isn't working, he can be found composing jazz music at home on his keyboard, one of the many instruments he plays. He has an extensive album collection of various artists.

"I collect the old vinyl George Benson, Doobie Brothers, Eagles, anything."

Pete was athletic when he was young, and still has the build. Both Pete and his father played baseball.

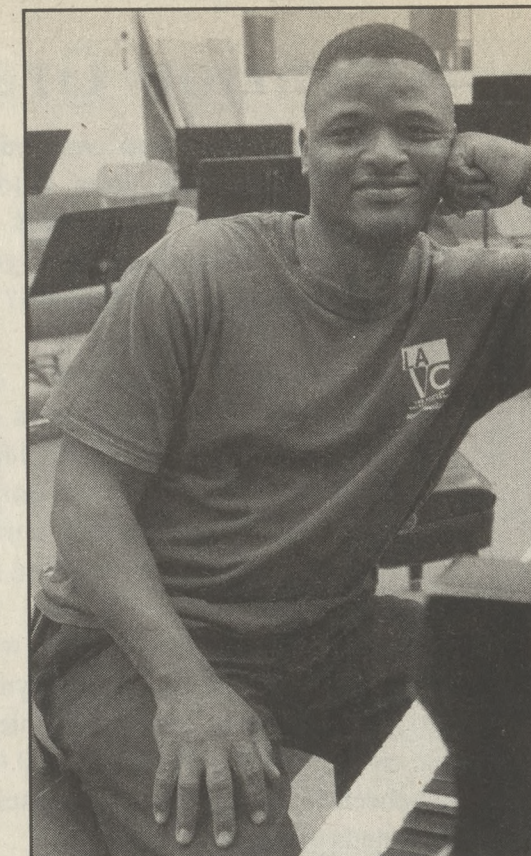
"The one thing that I can always say about Pete is he always has a smile on his face," Pete's best friend

and co-worker Hector Salazar said. "He is a very happy guy and a great to work with."

Pete and Joe's spiritual background is a big part of their lives today. They both consider themselves blessed to have the opportunity to work here. The job has allowed Joe to purchase a house, one of his life's

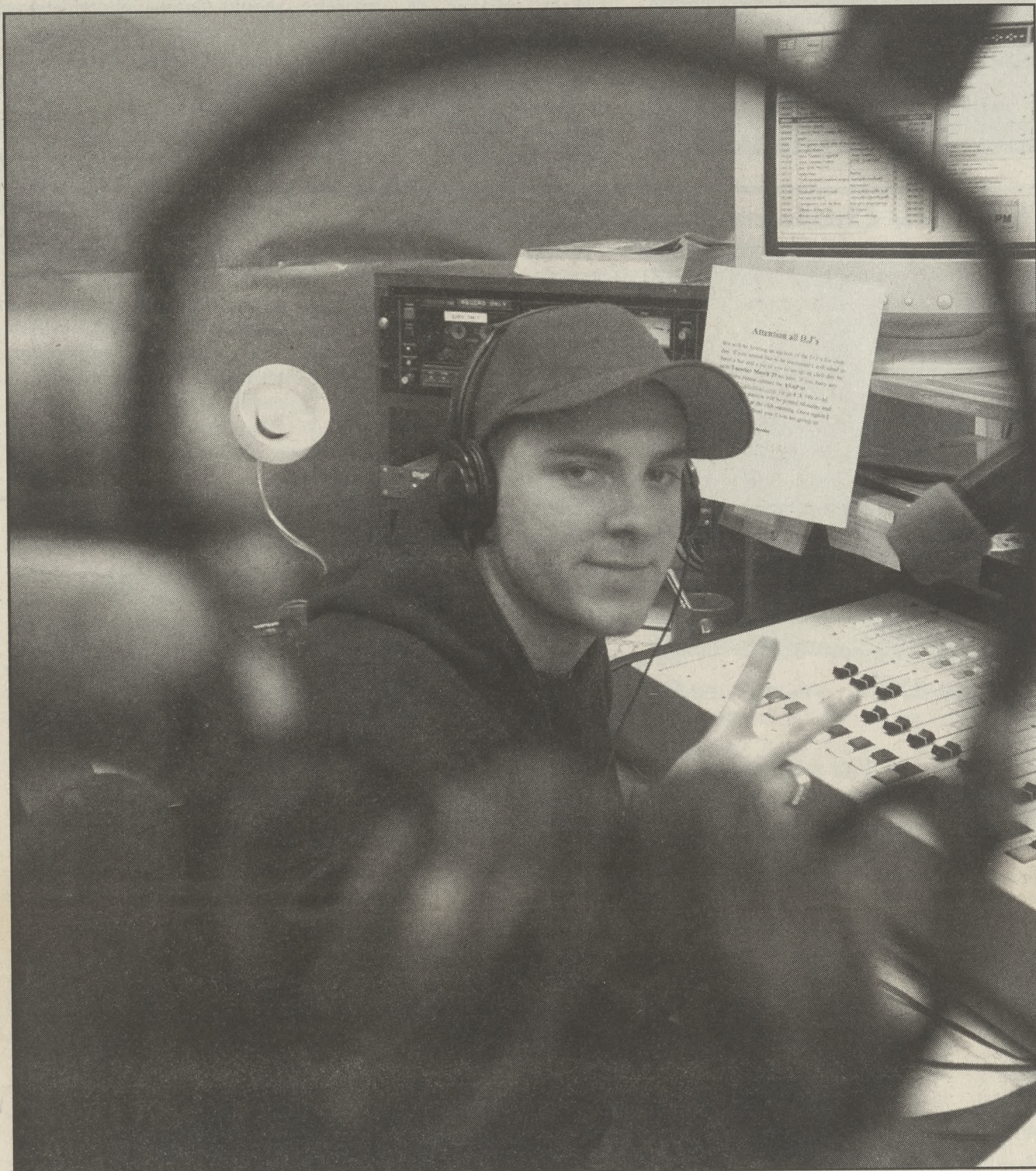
accomplishments. Home ownership is one of his proudest

goals. "I believe in a higher power," Joe said. "I'm thankful for the many blessing I have today. I try to pray even when times are good, especially when times are good."



SAMANTHA KUPPIG/VALLEY STAR

PIANO MAN- Valley custodian Pete Luna Carter earned a music scholarship when he was in high school, and still enjoys playing and composing.



JORGE GALLEGOS/VALLEY STAR

TUNE IN- Jose Padron, aka DJ Joe Spik, is on air Tuesdays and Thursdays from noon to 1 p.m. on Adelphia Cable channel 25, which covers the East San Fernando Valley.

Honors Program TAPs Valley into Universities

BY IVY DAI
STAFF WRITER

The University of California, Los Angeles created the Transfer Alliance Program (TAP) in the late 1970s in an effort to recruit more transfer students from community colleges. The secondary purpose of TAP was to ensure those students succeeded academically upon transfer. Today, there are 34 community colleges that have TAP programs.

TAP boasts a 100 percent acceptance rate into University of Southern California, University of California, Irvine, University of

California, Riverside, University of California, Santa Cruz and University of California, Santa Barbara, according to Valley College's TAP Director Thomas Yacovone. The acceptance rate to UCLA is more than 90 percent.

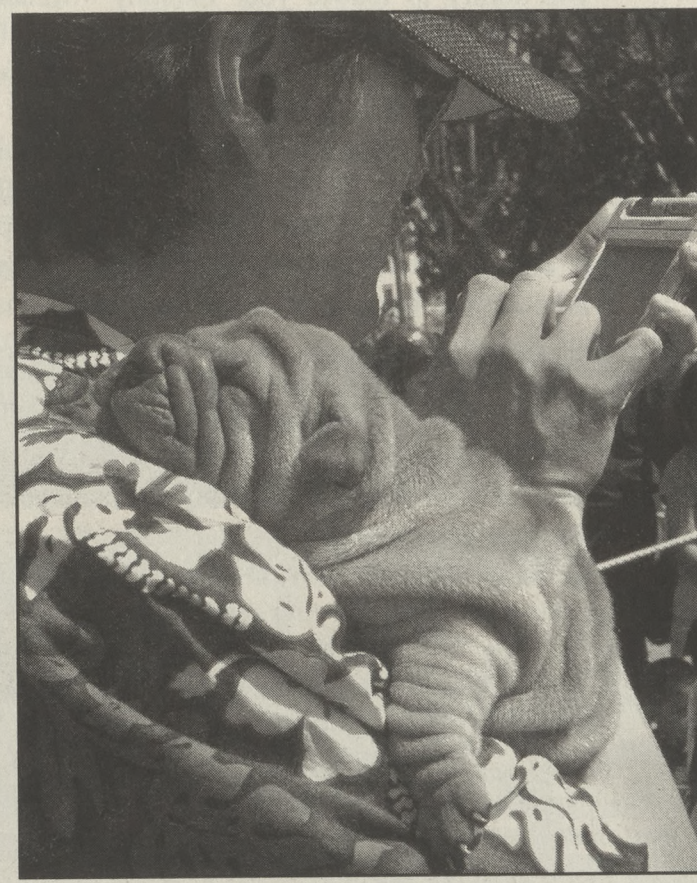
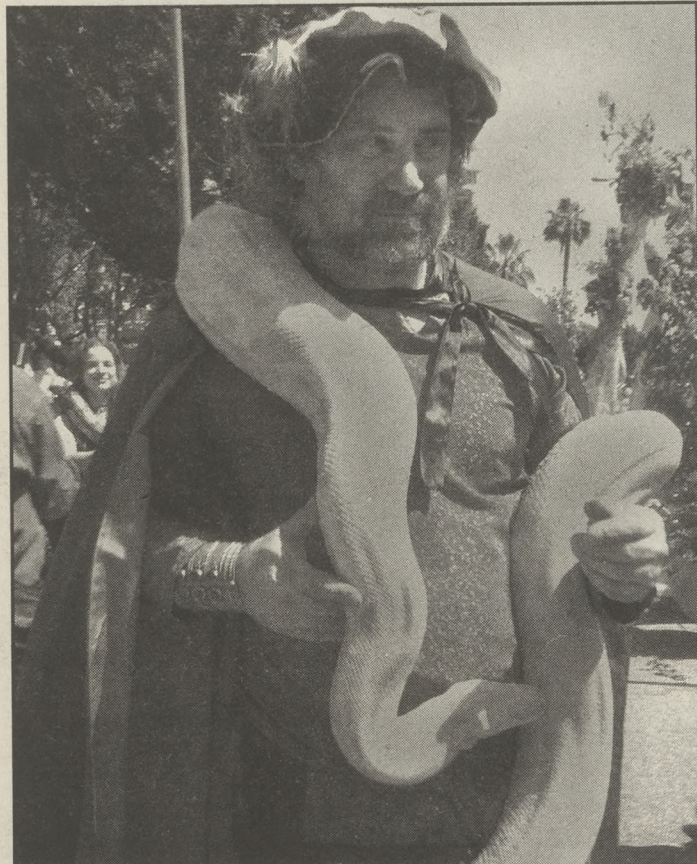
In an 11-year study conducted at UCLA, TAP transfer students proved to perform better academically than students who came in as freshmen. From 1987 to 1998, the average GPA of senior TAP students was 3.24, compared to 3.13 for seniors who were incoming freshmen.

At Valley, TAP has grown from 80 students and nine honor courses in

1993 to over 450 students and 78 courses in 2002. The rigorous TAP curriculum prepares students for the demanding course load at the upper university level. TAP students are also eligible for TAP and UCLA scholarships, totaling \$38,000, awarded in \$1,000 increments among the 34 community colleges with TAP programs.

For more information, contact TAP director Thomas Yacovone at (818) 947-2527.

Related story: "REEL" page 4



IT WAS A ZOO- Creatures from all walks of life arrived at Olvera Street for the seventh annual Blessing of the Animals on April 19, performed by Cardinal Roger Mahoney. Furishoners arrived from all over the United States to participate in this celebration.

- Photos and text by Tammy Abbott

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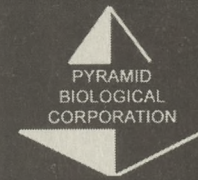
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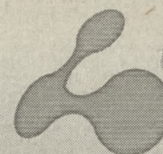
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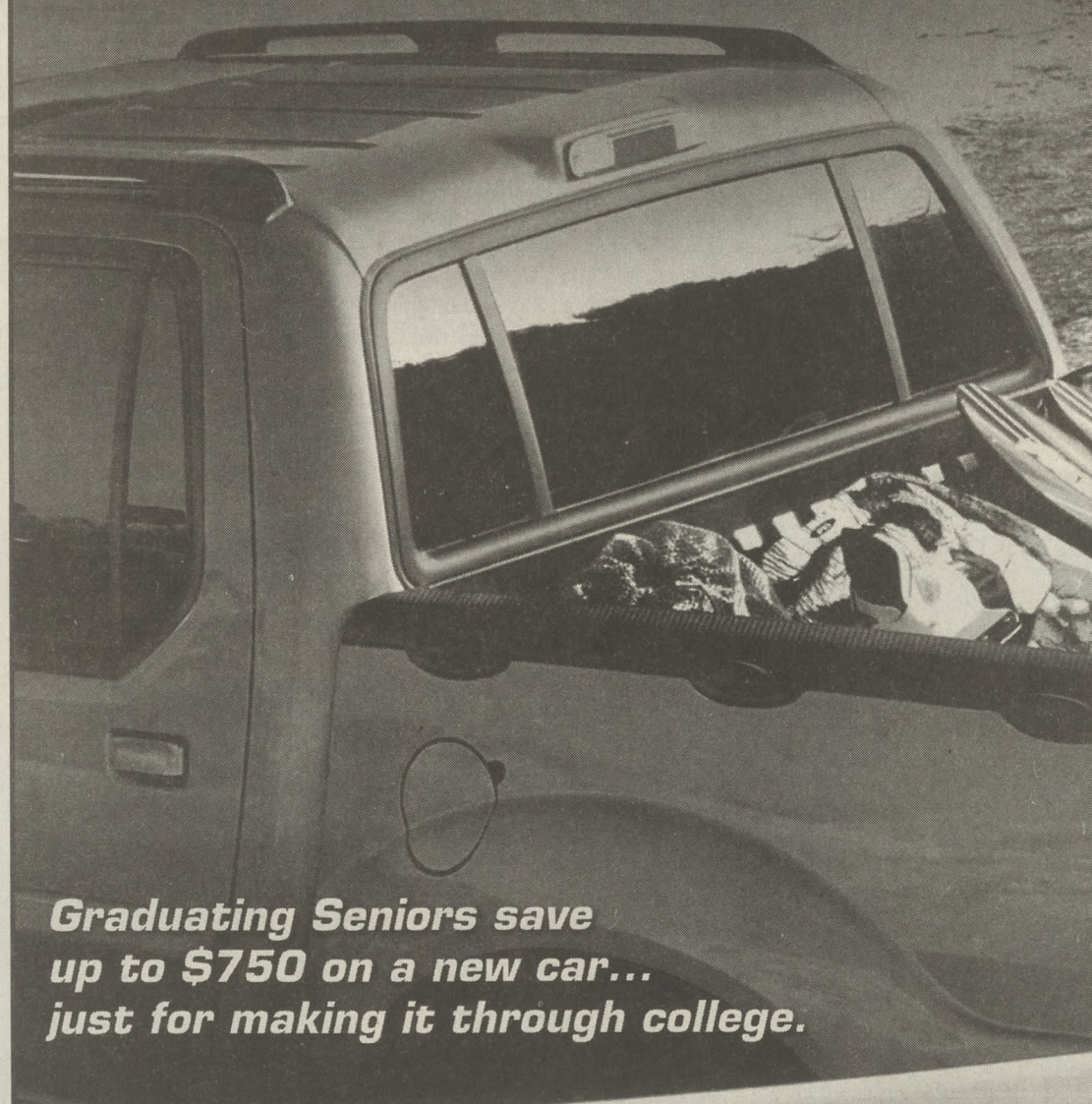


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An Army of Children

BY JACQUI BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Buried deep inside President Bush's sweeping new 'No Child Left Behind' education law, passed in January 2002, is a provision requiring public secondary schools to allow military recruiters access to facilities and contact information for every student. The federal government will deny funding to schools that don't comply.

"The district is complying with the new law," said Sue Spears, director of operations at LAUSD Local District 3. "But we're also informing parents of their right to restrict student information from going to various agencies." She added that no schools are being targeted based on racial or financial bias.

Grant High School is one of Valley College's feeders and rates in the top five for post-secondary enrollment. Already suf-

fering from the effects of a sagging economy and budget cuts, the loss of tuition and other fees that would come from high school grads who opt to join the military rather than continue their education would add another blow to an already diminishing source of income.

One college advisor at North Hollywood High School said she was against supplying the list, but would comply with the law. Students have the right to withhold their records. Many high school campuses across Los Angeles have mailed letters to parents explaining the law and giving them the option to approve or disapprove of their child's name appearing on these recruiter's lists.

"We're supplying the names of the graduates," said James Lee, an administrator at Grant High School. "We mailed out 3,622 letters explaining this provision to the parents and only 286 declined having their child's name appear on the list."

One parent, who said she never received such a letter, was angry and concerned that the law is taking away civil liberties one

by one. She said that the military's enticing high school students with college money is immoral.

Then Joint Chief of Staff Colin Powell introduced the military-run Jr. Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program into the public school system after the Los Angeles riots in 1992. The ROTC maintains offices at high schools throughout California and says their intention is to educate students and build their character, not to draw youths into the military. They provide textbooks, uniforms and instructors to cash-strapped schools, opening the door to additional resources. All of this helps stem dropout rates and failing grades by teaching morals and discipline to participants, according to the ROTC.

"The only thing that'll get us to stop contacting the family is if they call their congressman," said Major Johannes Paraan, head U.S. Army recruiter for Vermont and New York, in a recent Mother Jones Magazine interview. "Or maybe if the kid died, we'd take them off our list."

'Denim' continued from page 1

under-reported crimes, according to the Justice Department Statistics Bureau. The reasons why victims don't report the crime vary from embarrassment, fear of a repeated attack from the same party, fear no one will believe the victim and shame.

"Advocates hear harmful attitudes about rape expressed every day," LACAAW's Executive Director Patti Giggans said. "We need to work together as a community and as individuals to eliminate attitudes that excuse sexual assaults, like 'she asked for it,' 'she was in his room at 2 a.m. wasn't she?' and 'what she wore was so sexy, what did she expect?' If the ideas that blame the victims are destroyed, perhaps more rape survivors will come forward and get the help they need to heal. It's time that we break down these attitudes and barriers in all arenas." This year's participation promises to be much larger with more events planned throughout the month to bring a strong message that rape won't be tolerated, Giggans added.

LACAAW wants to send sexual predators the message that there is no excuse and never an invitation to rape. LACAAW's goal is to educate and eliminate violence against women, youth and children.

Sexual Predator Still at Large

BY JACQUI BROWN
STAFF WRITER

No arrests have been made in the March 13 attempted rape at Valley College.

The attack occurred at 10:30 p.m. between the art building and parking lot C. The student was walking toward her car when her unknown assailant attacked her from behind. After slitting the woman's right pant leg, leaving a small cut on her leg, the attacker was frightened off by the sounds of a starting car nearby.

"We have very little information to go on," said Deputy Sheriff Randy Tuinstra, head of campus security. "She never really had a chance to see him because of the way she was approached. We've offered her escorts and anything that will make her more comfortable on campus."

Campus security doesn't know whether she has returned to school to continue her classes.

Tuinstra advises students at Valley should increase their awareness until the rapist is apprehended. Precautions one should take at night on campus, he added, is to stick to well-lit areas and walk with a group. Carry a cell phone and have the campus police number programmed on speed dial in the event of an emergency. Campus security can be reached at (818) 947-2911.

Staff photographer Benjamin Favela contributed to this story.

'Theater' continued from page 1

shame to have to go out of the block grant and find the money."

"I don't know where the money went to," Breckell said. "I have no idea, there should be records of it in the office of administrations and records."

According to Breckell, the state gives the district the money and then the district distributes it to the colleges. From there, a block grant committee makes a decision about the applications of those applying for the grant and the amount needed. The college president makes the final decision and the vice president divides up the money.

With advancements in the computer age, equipment is obsolete after

six months, which makes the 1980's theater lighting obsolete, according to Parkin.

There are only two theater technician students left at Valley. "I feel robbed of an education," Student and Valley Collegiate Players' vice president Brad Wilder said. "The case of the missing money got to me, students should be aware of this." Brad said he's aware most of the departments are lacking in one way or another. "But the fact that there's money missing doesn't help."

"There are high schools that have better lighting than we do," Brickman said. He thinks the theater's status effects enrollment at Valley. "Students come here, see our



TAMMY ABBOT / VALLEY STAR

SQUEAKY SEATS- Seats at the Mainstage Theater cannot be replaced due to recent budget cuts that affected the theater department.

facility and figure they can't learn anything."

Valley President Tyree Weider said the missing money was brought to her attention months ago, but she doesn't know where it is. She said getting the facility up to standards is one of many items on her priority list. She intends to install lights and a soundboard using Proposition A-funded money. Valley's hired an architect, but a theatre specialist is still needed.

"It's a facility problem involving light and sound, therefore, we're

addressing it," Weider said.

"Dr. Weider is pretty straightforward. If she can't do something she will give you a very good reason why," Parkin said. "I've been at this school for 33 years and I think she's the best president."

"Now, maybe Valley administration had every right to spend the money, I don't know," theatre arts student Erin Noble said. "Perhaps they used their own desecration as to how the money should best be spent. It might perfectly be legitimate, but it is worthy of investigation."

'Prop. A' continued from page 2

Most likely, classes currently held in the bungalows will move to the campus center and the bungalows will be demolished to make room for further construction. "We have a lot of choices as to how we will backfill those spaces and that's why we need to do it now," O'Brien said. The decision needs to be made before the budget is finalized.

Mactec, a geotechnical investigation company, took core samples across campus and will continue at four specific building sites — the library, media arts, allied health sciences, and plant facilities. Foundation samples will be taken until June.

Utility mapping is scheduled to run until October. A committee has looked at the old campus and conducted a demand study.

"What we need to do is see how much power and water we need and how much money it will require," O'Brien said.

Improvements to lighting, surrounding thoroughfares, campus standards and campus security will be planned later this year. Additional funds will be used for campus traffic flow, landscaping projects, relocation of the Historical Museum to the library, outdoor seating areas, disabled accessibility pathways, and the EIR.

California University last April.

Gusmao believes in community colleges with full faith, commending the system as "a place where anyone has the potential to fulfill their dreams with no questions asked."

"Hopefully as a society we will realize how important education is, because people are our most important resource," Gusmao said.

she addressed the crowd. Hunter worked with Gusmao at Grant High School. "Lucky is the student who sits with her, and she wins them over and gains their confidence."

Gusmao is also a coordinator for the Puente Program, which supports and encourages underrepresented students to succeed and prepare for transfer. The program is active at 45 community colleges and is counseling and instruction intensive.

"It makes us very available to students as a resource," Gusmao said. In the program instructors and counselors are able to encourage students when they succeed and push them when they struggle.

"The program gives a lot to students, but they can only work because of the people and Ivna is one of the best." Michael Suarez, who oversees the Puente Program said. "Statewide, she's become very well-liked; students, colleagues and Puente members know of her work and her passion."

Student Jacqueline Lima also broke into tears. "Thanks to you I'm aiming higher," she told Gusmao. Gusmao urged Lima to apply for a

access to ASU.

"I have the necessary skills and experience, having served as vice president and now president of the Psychology Club," Gonzales said.

Alvarado made no statement.

The student body elections will be held April 29 and 30 from 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

'ASU' continued from page 1

organizations should vault him into the presidency.

"This year is proving to be a very difficult one with the impending budget situation," Brevard said. "As your president, I will use my experience to continue the fight for the maintenance of affordable education costs."

Gonzales said he intends to get students involved and in campus activities and more

Valley Students Receive Honors

BY KRISTA CARLSON
NEWS EDITOR

Valley College students Luke Spink and Jorge Mier received the All-California Academic Team Honors earlier this month. Each California community college nominated two outstanding scholars, of which almost 70 are chosen for the All-California Honors Academic Team. Valley has participated in the program for the past 4 years. All Valley

nominees have been selected for the All-California Honors Academic Team. Both students were individually honored by Assemblyman Levine of the California State Legislature and by Phi Theta Kappa at the All-California Academic Team luncheon in Sacramento April 10. The students received scholarships, medals, awards, certificates, and will be further honored at the Academic Awards Dinner on campus May 15.

'Women'

continued from page 1

Janiero, Brazil, and said the experience helped her understand many people, especially in Los Angeles, where there are people from all over the world. She told the story of a boy who was smuggled out of Vietnam through a United Nations camp in Thailand.

"I could tell a million stories of students who touched me and taught me so much," Gusmao said. "When you enter a new country you're able to see things a new way, and you're able to unify with others."

She began her education at Pasadena City College as a history major and later studied journalism at New York University. Ivna had trouble finding a fulfilling job in the field and came to find her passion in education.

"I needed to do something that would make a difference, and teaching, if not the most important, is one of the most important jobs," Gusmao said. "Teaching gives hope, it gives direction."

Gusmao advises students to

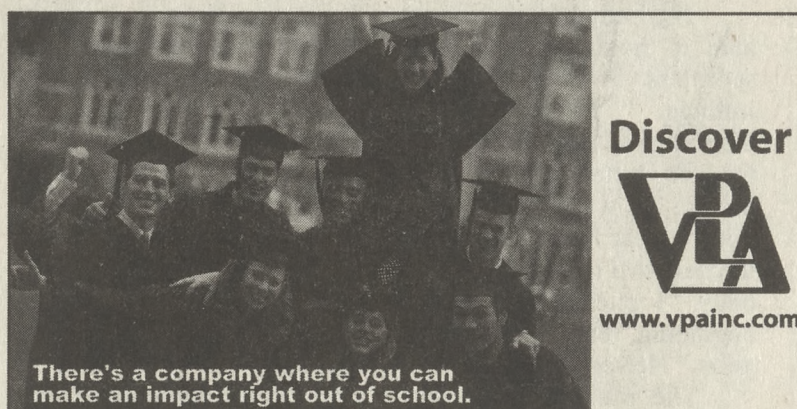
get involved, and said that doing so increases their chances of success. "Students begin to feel like they belong to the community, begin to connect to the classroom and the activities," Gusmao said.

As for the teachers, administrators, and counselors at schools, Gusmao feels it's important for these leaders to be assertive in communicating what is expected of the students.

"Teachers are our most important resources because they have the power of destroying a human being or making a being blossom to his or her potential," Gusmao said.

Gusmao expressed adulation for many female mentors in her life. The first was her grandmother for becoming a college professor while caring for six children. She also credited her daughter for giving her strength during difficult moments.

"I don't know of another person who gives whole heart, intelligence and advocacy like she does in this field," said Gusmao's colleague Livinia Hunter, who broke into tears as



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SOFTBALL: SEASON FINALE

Lady Monarchs End Season

BY JAYSON ADDCOX AND BOB TEICHMANN
STAFF WRITERS

A tough season finale loss to league champion Cuesta College can't break these girls' spirit. The Lady Monarchs slugged it out with the top team in the conference losing 14-3, closing out and up and down season with 9-32 record.

"Everything has to come to an end," Coach Francis Garcia said. "I just wish I could have this group of girls one more year, they've really improved throughout the season."

The Lady Monarchs were able to hold mighty Cuesta scoreless for the first two innings. Pitcher Jessica Nelson gave up a single to the leadoff hitter in the first inning, but was able to strike out the next hitter and retired the next two batters on ground balls. "I pitched well in the beginning, but this team is good," Nelson said.

The Monarchs got to a good start when leadoff batter Liliana Pulido was awarded first base on catcher's interference call. The next batter, Aeshia Mendez, came up to the plate poised to get a hit. However, Pulido was picked off at first and Mendez grounded out, leaving the bases empty with two outs for

Jessica Nelson. Nelson smacked a single into center field, but was stranded on base after Nicole LaBrunda grounded to third.

The second inning went well for the Monarchs. Nelson grounded out the first batter to second, and struck out the next. Cuesta threatened by getting a base hit and stealing second, however Nelson struck out the final batter to end the inning, stranding two on base.

Allison Winslow led off the bottom of the second with a walk. She was then picked off at first base on a steal attempt, killing any chance of a rally.

Valley's season unofficially ended in the third inning. In an inning that saw 11 at bats for Cuesta, the Monarchs fell to a 6-0 deficit.

Like they've done all season long, the girls came on strong at the end scoring three runs in the bottom half of the fourth to give the Monarch faithful something to cheer about. The game was called after four innings, ending the Monarchs season.

"We improved a lot from when we started, I'm proud of all the girls," right fielder Gaby Melgar said.



JORGE GALLEGOS/ VALLEY STAR

IN THE END-The Lady Monarchs softball team went home Tuesday after the end to what some players called a "down" season

LAVC SCORES

Swimming @ Santa Monica 4/16/03

Men (1-5): Santa Monica 69, Valley 39 Women (1-5): Valley 54, Santa Monica 52

Baseball vs. Mission (W 6-5) 4/12/03 Record: 2-25-1

Softball @ Allan Hancock (L 0-8 5in) 4/17/03 Record: 9-31

LAVC SCHEDULE

Wednesday 4/23/03
No Scheduled GamesFriday 4/25/03
No Scheduled GamesMonday 4/28/03
No Scheduled GamesThursday 4/24/03
Baseball @ Glendale 2:30 p.m.Saturday 4/26/03
Baseball vs. Citrus 1 p.m. (final hm gm)Tuesday 4/29/03
Baseball @ Citrus 2:30 p.m.

PRO SCORES

NBA WESTERN CONFERENCE QUARTER FINALS

L.A. Lakers @ Min. Timberwolves (W 117-98) 4/20/03

Kobe Bryant: 39 pts, 8 ast, 5 rb LAL leads West. Qtr. Finals 1-0

NHL WESTERN CONFERENCE QUARTER FINALS

An. Mighty Ducks vs. Det. Red Wings (W 3-2 OT) 4/16/03

Anaheim Goals: Kariya, Krog, Rucchin AN Sweeps West. Qtr. Finals 4-0

L.A. Avengers vs. Buf. Destroyers (W 65-14) 4/18/03

LA: 17 first downs LA Record: 9-3

An. Angels vs. Seattle Mariners (L 6-7) 4/20/03

WP: Hasegawa (1-0) LP: Troy Percival (0-1)

L.A. Dodgers vs. San Francisco Giants (W 16-4) 4/20/03

WP: Hideo Nomo (2-3) LP: Alnsworth (3-1)

Questions? Comments? Suggestions?

E-mail Bob Teichmann at
LAVCsports@yahoo.com
or go online at
http://snap.to/lavcsports

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"It doesn't matter if it's raining. These girls are going to play and finish their season with class."

Francis Garcia, Women's softball coach at the final game of the season on playing in the rain.



Photo by Jorge Gallegos



JORGE GALLEGOS/ VALLEY STAR

WINDING UP-Lady Monarchs' pitcher Jessica Nelson, left, and first-baseman Krystal Daniels, right, play on during the final game.

JESSICA NELSON

Two for Two
Two Singles
Pitched Three Innings

KRYSTAL DANIELS

Zero for One
Hit by Pitch
Hit by Pitchfurther stats at
COAONLINE.com

NOTES

NBA PLAYOFFS

Shaquille O'Neal missed the Los Angeles Lakers' shootaround Tuesday morning in Minnesota, a day after flying to South Carolina for his grandfather's wake. O'Neal's maternal grandfather died Friday of natural causes.

MLB

Major League Baseball players are reported to still be using muscle-building drugs, amphetamines, and "natural enhancers" despite the sport's new steroid-testing plan.

MLB

Dodgers' relief pitcher Guillermo Mota was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol Monday morning, the California Highway Patrol said. Mota declined to comment before Tuesday's road game against the Cincinnati Reds.

NCAA

Four years after being fired as basketball coach at Iowa, Tom Davis was hired Monday to rebuild the losing program at Drake.

NCAA

Missouri point guard Ricky Clemens, accused of choking a woman and holding her against her will at his apartment, pleaded guilty Monday to a pair of lesser counts and was suspended from the team for one year.

NCAA

The draft status of cornerback prospect Dennis Weathersby has been rendered uncertain after the former Oregon State star was shot Sunday evening in his hometown of Duarte, California.

NFL

A.J. Smith was named general manager of the San Diego Chargers Tuesday, 11 days after predecessor John Butler, 56, died of cancer.

PGA

Golfer Jack Nicklaus has sued a sporting goods company that introduced a line of golf balls carrying the brand name "JACK." The balls, Nicklaus says, try to let you know who they supposedly represent. Nicklaus has signed no sponsorship deals endorsing any kind of game balls.

Late Monarch Honored at Baseball Alumni Game

BY JAYSON ADDCOX
STAFF WRITER

The Monarchs baseball team took a moment to remember one of their own Saturday and retired the No. 17 jersey of John Shellabarger before the alumni game.

Shellabarger, a former Monarch who played 1994-95, was shot and killed a year ago.

"In honor of him we decided to retire his jersey and give it to his family," Coach Chris Johnson said. "His family was always in the stands when he played, they were very involved, and he was a great kid."

Although the alumni game took second stage, it had all the elements of a classic matching the talent of yesterday, against the speed and strength of today in 17-15 slugfest the Monarchs won.

Even though the alumni team lost, they all had a great time reuniting with their former coach and teammates.

"It's just great to hang out with the guys and teach the youngsters a thing or two," alumni Chris Stell said.

Johnson was very impressed with the turnout. "This is only the second alumni game," he said. "I coached all

these guys, and love them all."

The alumni got on the scoreboard first, getting two runs off starting pitcher David Kessler. However, the momentum quickly shifted in the bottom half of the first. Beto Flores, pitching for the alumni, gave up back-to-back walks to start the game, followed by a run scoring double by Anthony Chevrier. His troubles continued when he hit Corey Brown to load the bases for Amador Galvez who promptly sliced a single into right scoring two more runs.

Flores issued two more walks and a two run double to David Romeka ending his day. Jorge Dorado came in to relieve Flores and managed to get out of the inning giving, up five runs of his own.

The alumni team fought its way back throughout the game, picking up four runs in the third and five in the seventh to cut the lead to one 14-13. The alumni turned to 58-year-old pitcher Roger Eckert who played in 1967. He struggled a bit giving up a double to Mike Seiser, but was able to finish the inning giving up no runs on two hits.

"It felt great to be out

there," Eckert said. "I'm only able to pitch one inning but its fun."

In the eighth inning, David Stevenson of the alumni team blasted a first pitch fastball over the center field fence off of Monarchs pitcher Mike Botros, to tie the game at 14.

"It brings back memories of my playing days," Stevenson said. "I'll be back next year."

The Monarchs played sloppy defense giving up the go ahead run on two throwing errors. With the score 15-14, the alumni brought in Justin Collins to pitch the eighth. The Monarchs redeemed themselves when John Baca hit a triple with two men on, and was driven in by Amador Galvez who hit a double giving the Monarchs a 17-15 lead. "It was a great gesture retiring the jersey, and we had a fun time breaking in these kid," Jorge and Javier Dorado said after the game.

The game was just as fun for the current Monarchs as it was for their predecessors.

"It brings back memories for them," infielder Chris Chavez said. "We're all connected here like a family."

SPORTS

9

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WSC BASEBALL

BASEBALL STANDINGS - WSC

NORTH	WSC	GB	Season
Cuesta	18-3	-	30-8
Allan Hancock	13-7-1	4.5	19-15-1
Ventura	10-11	8.0	21-13-1
Moorpark	8-13	10.0	12-23-3
Santa Barbara	6-14-1	12.5	8-25-1
Oxnard	4-16-1	13.5	8-28-2

South	WSC	GB	Season
Canyons	19-3	-	24-9
Citrus	14-6	4.0	23-10
L.A. Pierce	13-7	5.0	22-12
Glendale	9-11	9.0	13-20-1
L.A. Mission	9-11	9.0	19-12
Bakersfield	8-14	11.0	15-22
L.A. Valley	2-17-1	15.5	2-25-1

SCORING MARGIN - WSC

	RF	AVG.	RA
Canyons*	191	9.1	87
Cuesta	179	8.5	86
Citrus**	123	6.8	73
Allan Hancock	153	7.3	136
L.A. Pierce	132	6.6	117
L.A. Mission	125	6.3	122
Glendale	124	6.2	136
Bakersfield*	141	6.7	164
Ventura	123	5.9	151
Moorpark	93	4.4	127
Oxnard	78	3.7	112
Santa Barbara	125	6.0	161
L.A. Valley	79	4.0	178

TEAM BATTING - WSC

	G	AB	R
Canyons	19	722	189
Cuesta	21	756	178
Citrus	17	620	121
Allan Hancock	21	761	153
Bakersfield	19	678	133
L.A. Mission	20	724	125
Ventura	21	692	123
L.A. Pierce	20	688	132
Santa Barbara	21	746	128
Glendale	20	694	124
Moorpark	21	717	93
Oxnard	21	690	76
L.A. Valley	20	659	83

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BOB TEICHMANN/ VALLEY STAR PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Bob Teichmann
an opinion

Playoff Time

The postseason in any sport is a time of celebration for fans, but a time to worry for the athletes who compete for the ultimate prize in their respective sports.

April and May play hosts to playoffs series for both the NHL and the NBA. The single goal for both leagues is the same — win. However, all is not fun and games for the hunters of the Stanley Cup and the NBA Rings. Injuries, suspensions, and silly superstitions plague players and coaches alike.

This makes professional athletes unwilling victims of the “playoff effect.” When the playoffs arrive, strange things happen. This is not just a theory, it’s a very simple fact.

There’s no better example than the defending champion Los Angeles Lakers’ star center Shaquille O’Neal. He experienced both joy and sorrow in the same week. O’Neal’s maternal grandfather died of natural causes this past week, one day removed from the birth of his third child. Fate for Shaq, it seems, is not without its sense of irony.

Portland Trailblazers’ star Scottie Pippen always seems to get some kind of

ailment this time of year. In the 1998 NBA Finals, Pippen threw out his back and had to leave at a crucial point in the series. This year, his surgically repaired left knee is hurting him so badly he went into Portland’s Game two against Dallas undecided if he should play.

Hockey is no different. In fact, it’s often worse. The Philadelphia Flyers went into their Game seven with the Toronto Maple Leafs without the help of Eric Desjardins. The Flyers’ top defenseman broke a bone in his right foot during Saturday’s game.

And it seems the rally monkey was out in full force for the other Anaheim team. The Ducks swept the Detroit Red Wings last week to advance in the Western Conference Playoffs. Keep in mind the Red Wings won three of the last six Stanley Cup championships.

It’s quite obvious the playoffs in any sport have an effect on the teams. Hell, when I’m at a playoff game, I’m not myself. Three years ago, my tires were flattened at the NBA Finals. The only way to avoid the “playoff effect” is to just suck as a team and not make it to the postseason. It’s that simple.

MLB SCHEDULE

Wednesday 4/23/03

Matchup	Time (ET)	TV
San Diego Padres @ Chicago Cubs	2:20 p.m.	
Chicago White Sox @ Baltimore Orioles	7:05 p.m.	
St. Louis Cardinals @ Atlanta Braves	7:05 p.m.	ESPN
Arizona Diamondbacks @ Montreal Expos	7:05 p.m.	
Colorado Rockies @ Philadelphia Phillies	7:05 p.m.	
San Francisco Giants @ Pittsburgh Pirates	7:05 p.m.	
Milwaukee Brewers @ Florida Marlins	7:05 p.m.	
Los Angeles Dodgers @ Cincinnati Reds	7:10 p.m.	Fox Sports
Houston Astros @ New York Mets	7:10 p.m.	
Toronto Blue Jays @ Tampa Bay Devil Rays	7:15 p.m.	
Minnesota Twins @ Kansas City Royals	8:05 p.m.	
Boston Red Sox @ Texas Rangers	8:05 p.m.	
New York Yankees @ Anaheim Angels	10:05 p.m.	Fox Sports
Detroit Tigers @ Oakland A's	10:05 p.m.	
Cleveland Indians @ Seattle Mariners	10:05 p.m.	

Thursday 4/24/03

Matchup	Time (ET)	TV
San Francisco Giants @ Pittsburgh Pirates	12:35 p.m.	
Minnesota Twins @ Kansas City Royals	2:05 p.m.	
Boston Red Sox @ Texas Rangers	2:05 p.m.	ESPN
San Diego Padres @ Chicago Cubs	2:20 p.m.	
Colorado Rockies @ Philadelphia Phillies	3:05 p.m.	
Detroit Tigers @ Oakland A's	3:35 p.m.	
Chicago White Sox @ Baltimore Orioles	7:05 p.m.	
Arizona Diamondbacks @ Montreal Expos	7:05 p.m.	
Milwaukee Brewers @ Florida Marlins	7:05 p.m.	
Los Angeles Dodgers @ Cincinnati Reds	7:10 p.m.	Fox Sports
Houston Astros @ New York Mets	7:10 p.m.	
Toronto Blue Jays @ Tampa Bay Devil Rays	7:15 p.m.	
St. Louis Cardinals @ Atlanta Braves	7:35 p.m.	
New York Yankees @ Anaheim Angels	10:05 p.m.	Fox Sports
Cleveland Indians @ Seattle Mariners		

Friday 4/25/03

Matchup	Time (ET)	TV
Kansas City Royals @ Toronto Blue Jays	7:05 p.m.	
Houston Astros @ Montreal Expos	7:05 p.m.	
San Francisco Giants @ Philadelphia Phillies	7:05 p.m.	
Los Angeles Dodgers @ Pittsburgh Pirates	7:05 p.m.	Fox Sports
San Diego Padres @ Cincinnati Reds	7:10 p.m.	
Arizona Diamondbacks @ New York Mets	7:10 p.m.	
Baltimore Orioles @ Tampa Bay Devil Rays	7:15 p.m.	
Milwaukee Brewers @ Atlanta Braves	7:35 p.m.	
St. Louis Cardinals @ Florida Marlins	7:35 p.m.	
Minnesota Twins @ Chicago White Sox	8:05 p.m.	
New York Yankees @ Texas Rangers	8:05 p.m.	
Chicago Cubs @ Colorado Rockies	9:05 p.m.	
Boston Red Sox @ Anaheim Angels	10:05 p.m.	Fox Sports
Cleveland Indians @ Oakland A's	10:05 p.m.	
Detroit Tigers @ Seattle Mariners	10:05 p.m.	

Saturday 4/26/03

Matchup	Time (ET)	TV
Kansas City Royals @ Toronto Blue Jays	1:05 p.m.	
Houston Astros @ Montreal Expos	1:05 p.m.	
Arizona Diamondbacks @ New York Mets	1:10 p.m.	
San Diego Padres @ Cincinnati Reds	1:15 p.m.	
Chicago Cubs @ Colorado Rockies	3:05 p.m.	
Cleveland Indians @ Oakland A's	4:05 p.m.	
St. Louis Cardinals @ Florida Marlins	6:05 p.m.	
Baltimore Orioles @ Tampa Bay Devil Rays	6:15 p.m.	
Minnesota Twins @ Chicago White Sox	7:05 p.m.	
Milwaukee Brewers @ Atlanta Braves	7:05 p.m.	
San Francisco Giants @ Philadelphia Phillies	7:05 p.m.	Fox Sports
Los Angeles Dodgers @ Pittsburgh Pirates	7:05 p.m.	
New York Yankees @ Texas Rangers	8:05 p.m.	
Boston Red Sox @ Anaheim Angels	10:05 p.m.	Fox Sports
Detroit Tigers @ Seattle Mariners	10:05 p.m.	

*Game schedules are subject to change without notice. Please see MLB.com for more info.

Closing Out

Anthony Chevrier Scores on the Diamond and in Class

By JAYSON ADDCOX
STAFF WRITERS

For Anthony Chevrier, the game of baseball has helped him mature, improved his work in the classroom and realized his potential on the field.

A Reseda native, Chevrier didn’t begin playing baseball until he was 14. He attended Chatsworth High School, but only played one year of baseball and came to Valley relatively inexperienced. “I had to learn a lot, CJ (Coach Chris Johnson) helped me with the mental part of the game as well as the physical,” Chevrier said.

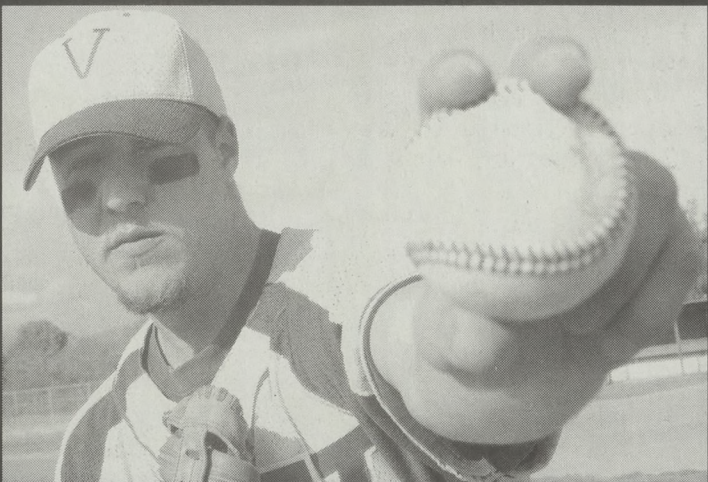
A sophomore, he’s a liberal studies major and intends to transfer to California State University, Chico. It hasn’t always been that clear for Chevrier, who ran into problems as teenager.

“I would just get in trouble hanging out, being at the wrong place at the wrong time,” Chevrier said. The classroom has also challenged him. “I have to improve my grades, it’s hard mixing in school when you’re playing games and practicing.”

Although the Monarchs haven’t enjoyed a very good season this year, Chevrier has blossomed, batting third in the lineup and hitting over .380. The losses have been tough for him to deal with.

“I’ve only won six games in two years, it’s depressing,” Chevrier said. “But it has been a good experience for me, making me want to be a better player.” And a better player he has become. He’s learned to hit to all fields and raised his batting average 80 points from last season.

With his career here at Valley is winding down, Chevrier has learned a lot about the game he loves, but more importantly he has grown from his experience. “I like what I’ve done here, I wouldn’t trade it for anything.”



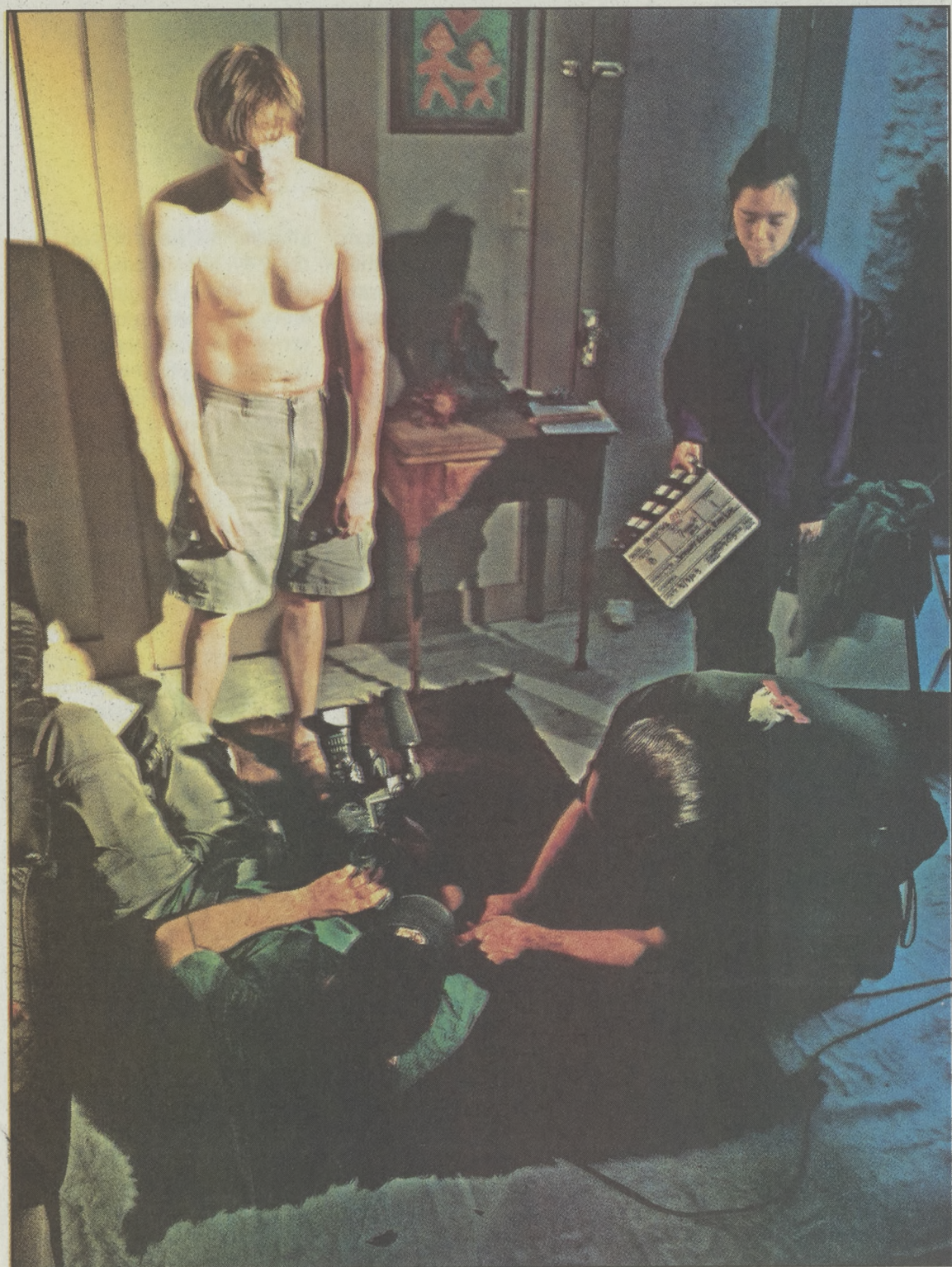
SALVADOR AGUILAR/ VALLEY STAR
GLENDALE COLLEGE Glendale, CA ■ Thursday 2:30 p.m.

Photo by Salvador Aguilar

Questions? Comments? Suggestions?

E-mail Bob Teichmann at
LAVCsports@yahoo.com
or go online at
http://snap.to/lavcsports

GALLERY

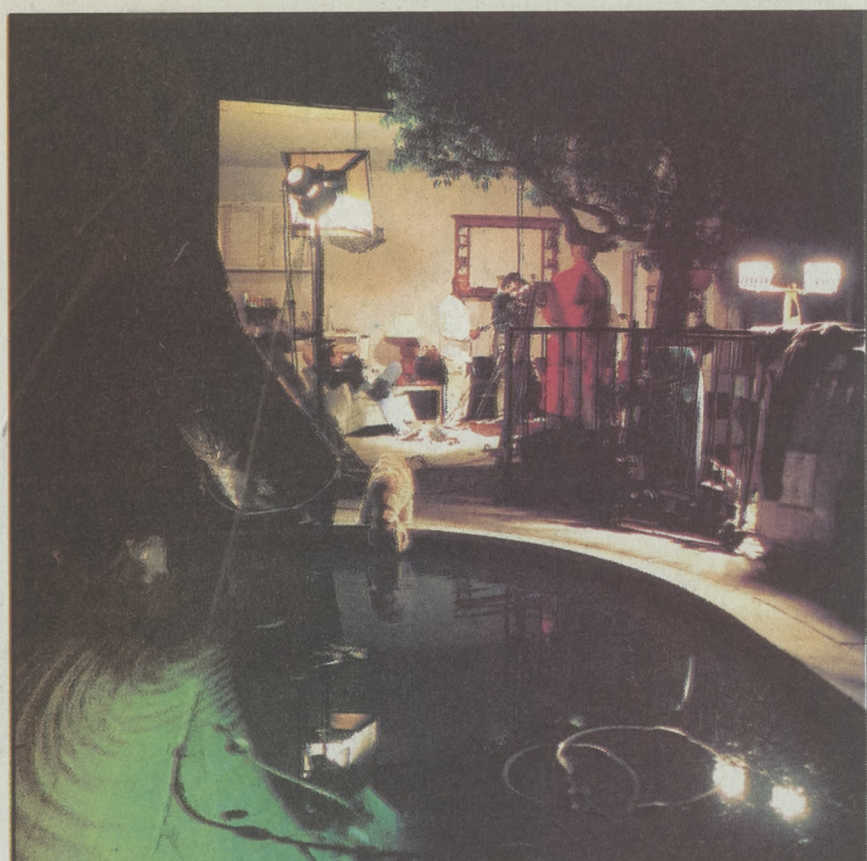


Actor Andy Allen warms up before being filmed by Ron Luce and Dwight Hume as production assistant Anna Lee stands by.

LIGHTS, CAMERA... SNOW FROG!



Darius Jamison (right) watches Ron Luc on camera as he focuses on actress Sofia Ahmad and lead actor Andy Allen in Quickstop, a Brentwood convenience store.



This set was constructed from the ground up by production designer Derek Bjornsen of Confusion Sets, all in his backyard.



Brentwood, California

A number of Valley College students participated in the production of a short feature entitled "Moving On" for Snow Frog production company. The film details the struggles of a jilted lover, restlessly dealing with the single life. All over town, he mingles with the opposite sex, only to whine over the loss of his ex-girlfriend.

TEXT, PHOTOS AND LAYOUT BY ALEX DASH



Actress Kristin Palmer patiently awaits her makeup removal after being done up for 9 hours. She portrayed a decomposing corpse.



The Snow Frog crew on location in Brentwood, California.